



# Near Net Manufacturing Using Thin Gage Friction Stir Welding

**AeroMat 2006**  
Seattle, Washington

**Jennifer Takeshita**

**David Potter**

**Michael Holguin**

**Lockheed Martin**





# Agenda



- **Background**
- **Objective**
- **Approach**
- **Results**
- **Acknowledgements**



# Background



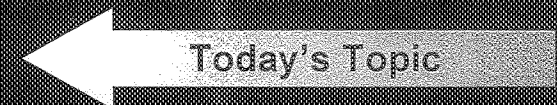
## Work done for NASA's H&RT BAA

### – Objective of BAA

- » Increase the technology level over 4 years
- » Provide technology that is affordable, multi-purpose

### – Focus of this BAA

- » Friction stir welding on thin gage alloys
- » Near net manufacturing methods
- » Mass efficient pressure vessels







# Near-Net Spin Forming

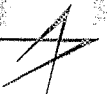


- Spin form a near-net dome using friction stir welded material
  - Technology Development
    - » Epoxy tool for spin forming
    - » Near net spin forming
  - Advantages:
    - » Materials more affordable
    - » Less material to remove if near net
    - » Tooling approach lightweight
    - » Technology is independent of size





# Alloy Selection



- **Select alloys**

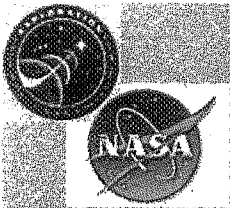
- **Criteria**

- » Readily available in gages near 0.125"
    - » Good mechanical properties
    - » Good material properties
      - i.e. corrosion resistance, density

- **Alloys selected**

- 2024
  - 2219
  - 7075

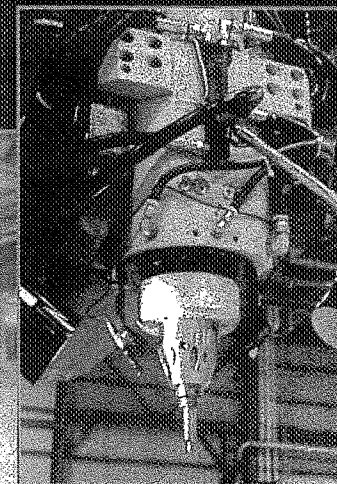
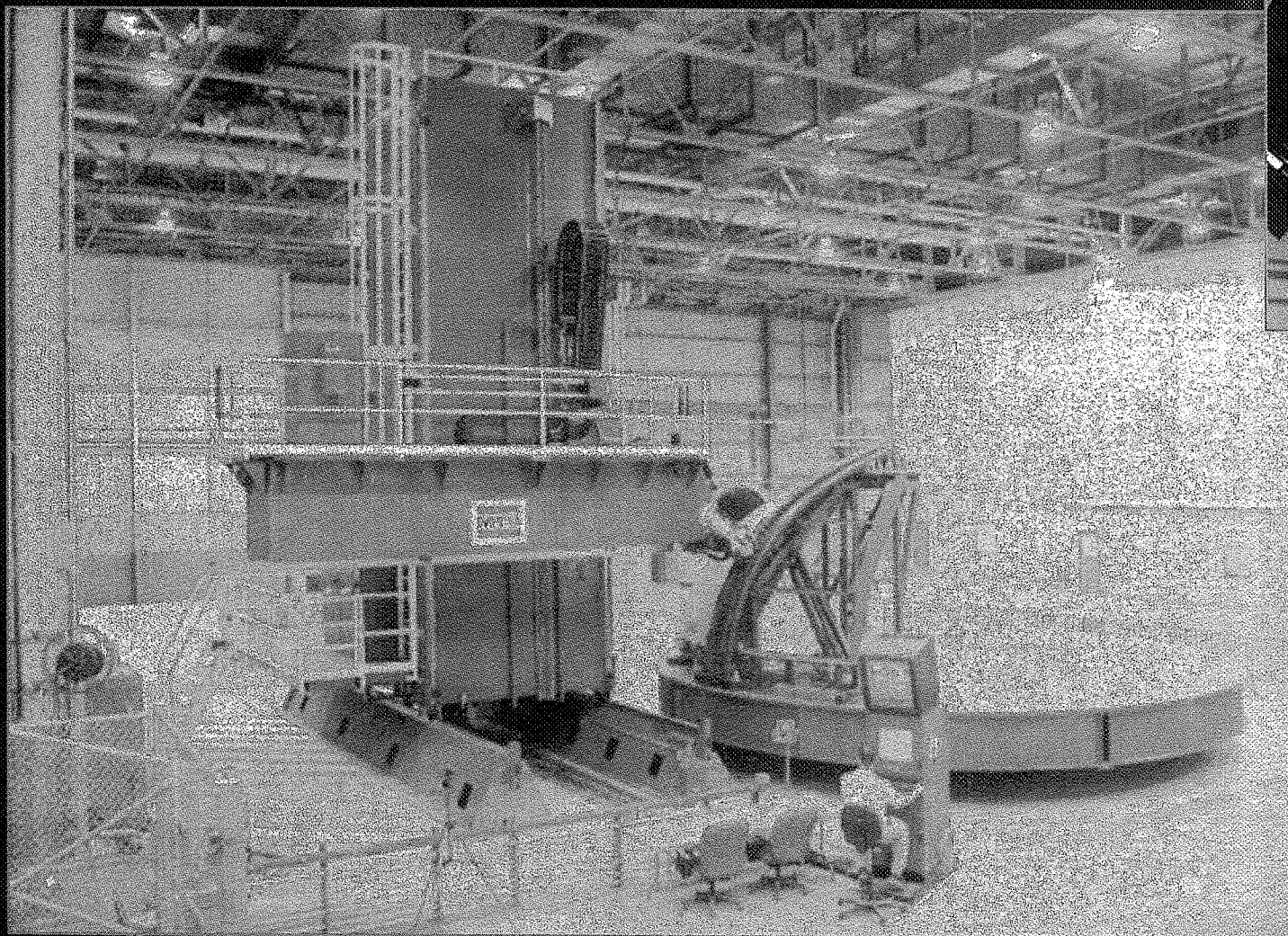




# Weld Equipment



- **MTS Universal Weld System**

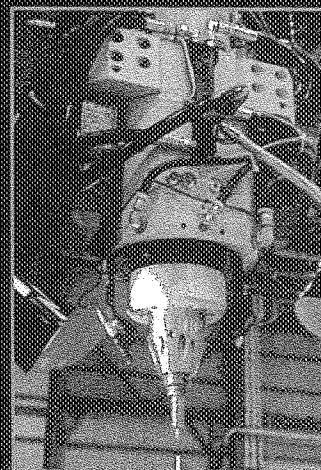
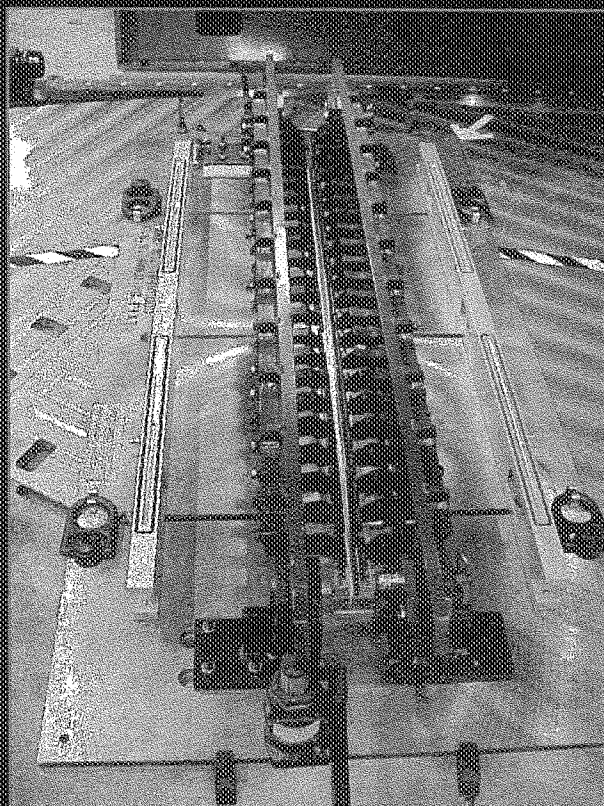






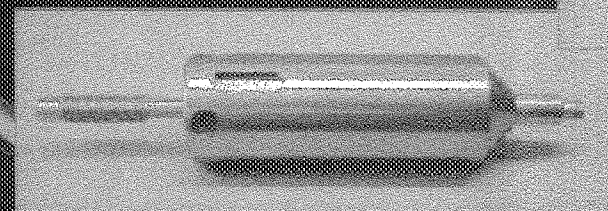
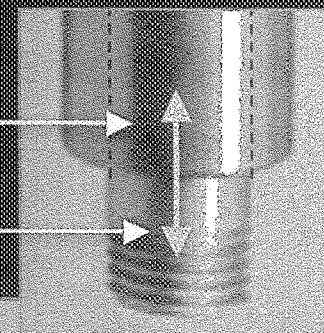
# Weld Set-Up

- Same fixture for all welding
  - Finger clamping
  - Minimal heat sink



Shoulder

Independent  
Pin



- Retractable pin tool used for all alloys





# Weld Development



- Each alloy was bounded
- Bounds were used to run simulated DOE

## 18 Welded Panels

### Typical Ranges:

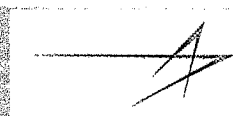
- 200 RPM
- 4 IPM
- 400 lbf

2024		Ultimate Tensile Strength	Yield Strength	% Elongation (1")
Parent Metal		64 ksi	47 ksi	12
Weld	Ave St Dev	65.5 ksi 1.0	47.5 ksi 0.8	13.8 ksi 1.2
2219		Ultimate Tensile Strength	Yield Strength	% Elongation (1")
Parent Metal		63 ksi	51 ksi	5
Weld	Ave St Dev	48.7 ksi 1.95	28.5 ksi 1.31	5.3 0.58
7075		Ultimate Tensile Strength	Yield Strength	% Elongation (1")
Parent Metal		78 ksi	70 ksi	8
Weld	Ave St Dev	75.1 ksi 0.76	52.9 ksi 1.32	7.9 0.68



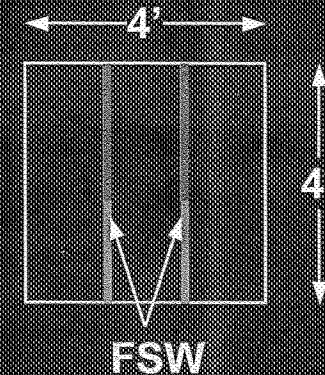


# Fabrication of Dome Blanks



- **Deliverable:**

- **Three (3) dome blanks**
  - » One per alloy (7075, 2219, 2024)
  - » Final dimensions: 4' x 4'



- **Process**

**Weld**  
Use schedule proven  
on confidence panels

**NDE**

**Trim to size**

**Anneal**

**Ship**

7075  
2219  
2024

Pass  
Pass  
Pass

✓  
✓  
✓

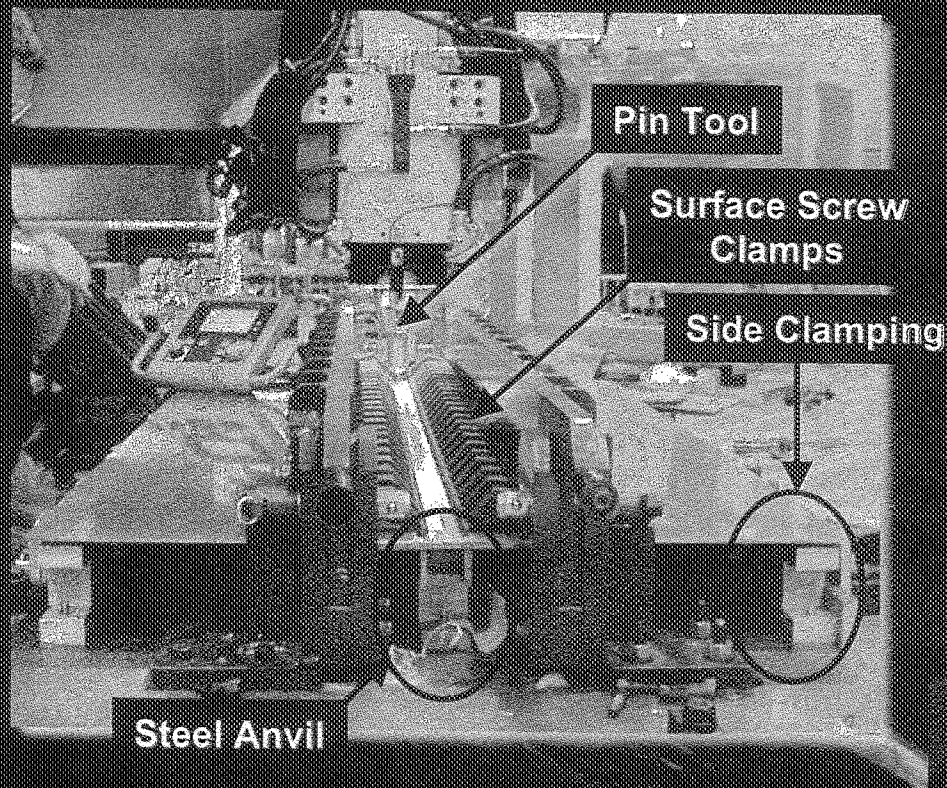
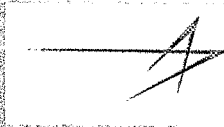
✓  
✓  
✓

Panels remediated after  
Hurricane Katrina

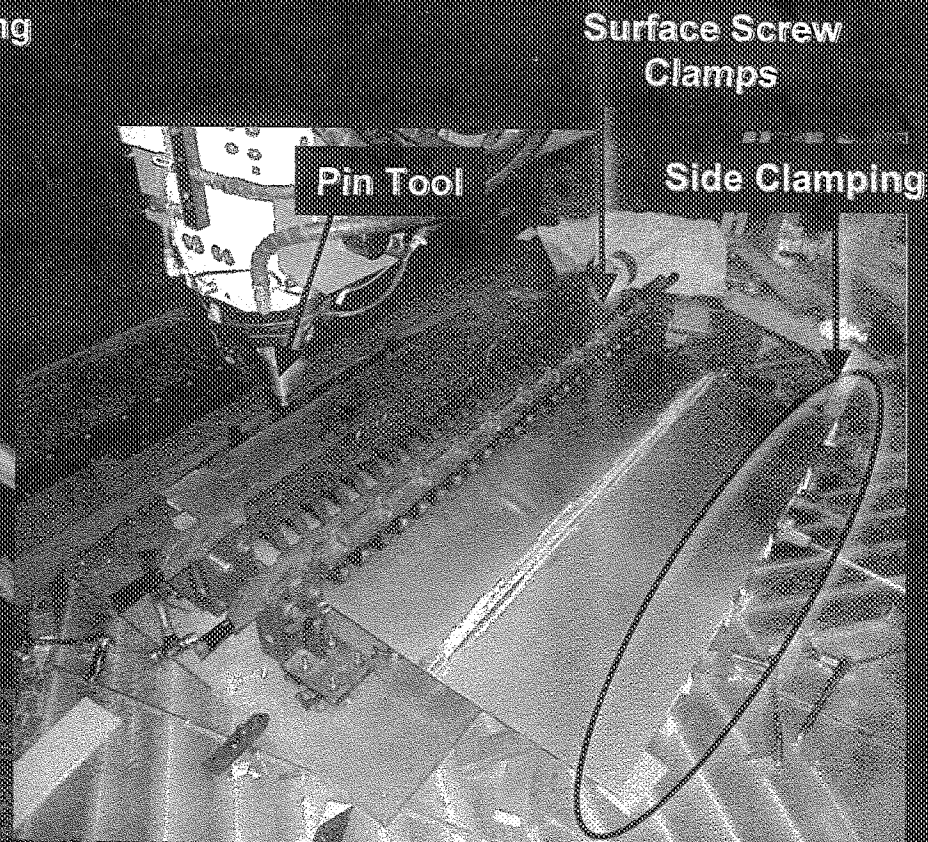




# Fabrication of Dome Blanks

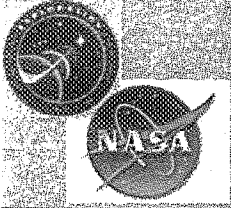


Making the first weld



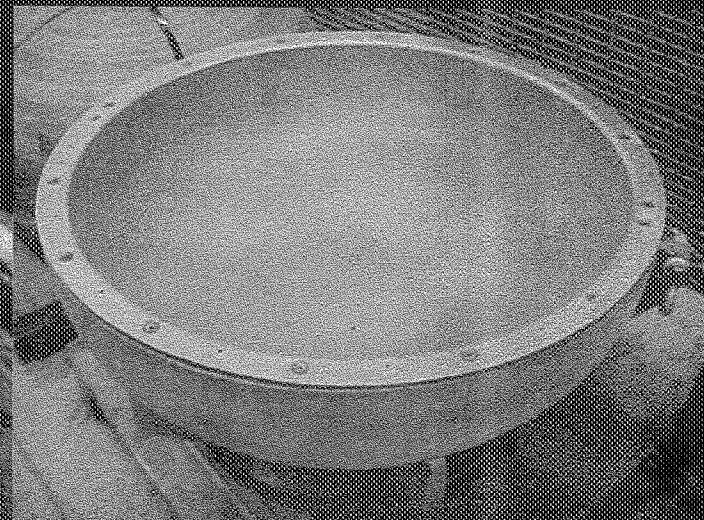
Making the second weld



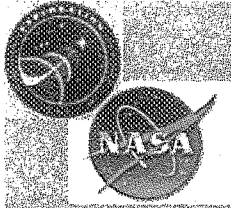


# Spin Forming the Dome Blanks

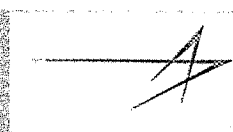
- **Used female mandrel rather than male**
  - » Potential to reduce cost of tooling at large scale
    - At large-scale, multiple breakdown tools required
  - » Potential to improve control for tolerances and contour
    - Further enhancing near-net forming capability
- **Used an epoxy tool with metal ring**
  - » Scale up would cause tool to be too heavy if all metal



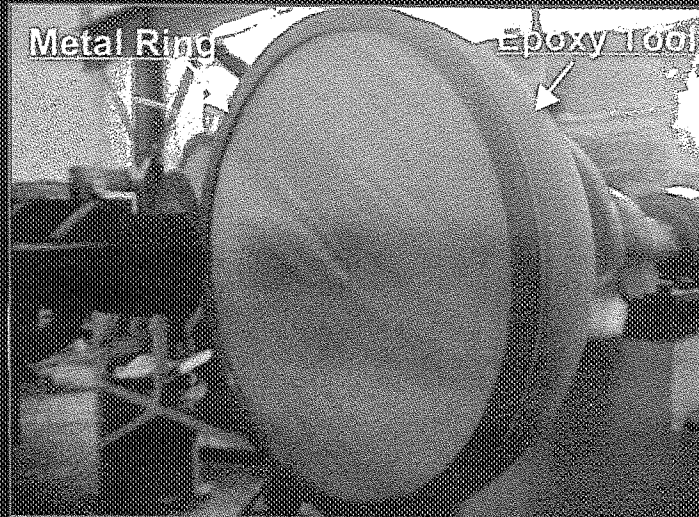




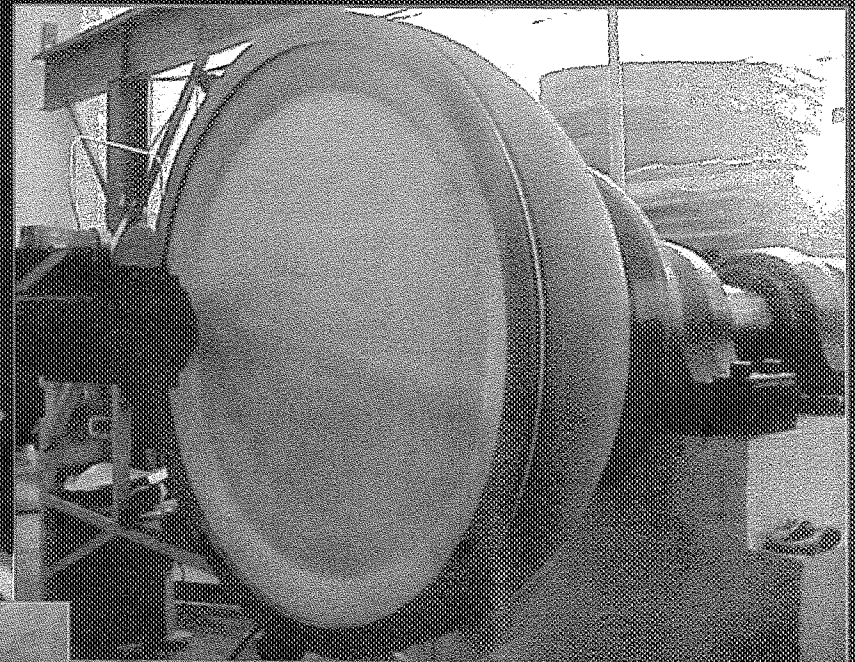
# FSW Dome Spinning Process



## 1. Install the dome blank



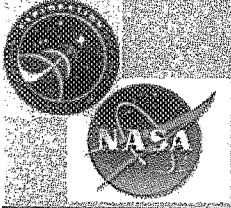
## 2. Spin form the blank



## 3. Check thickness

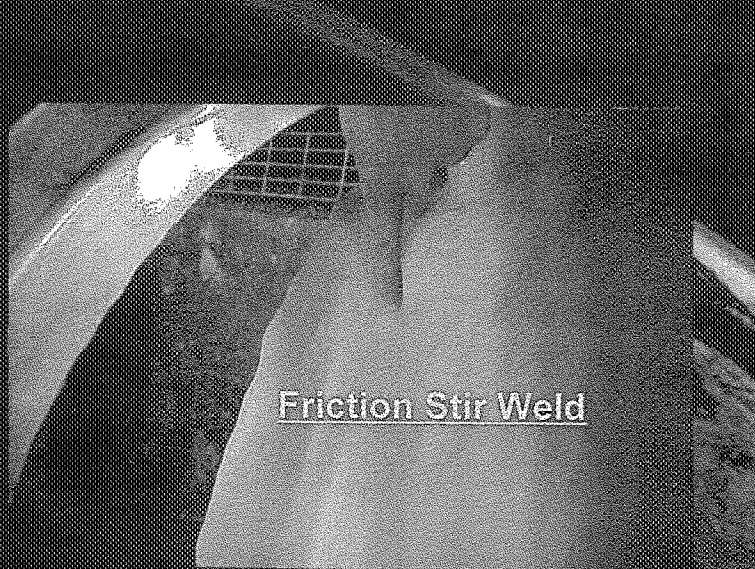
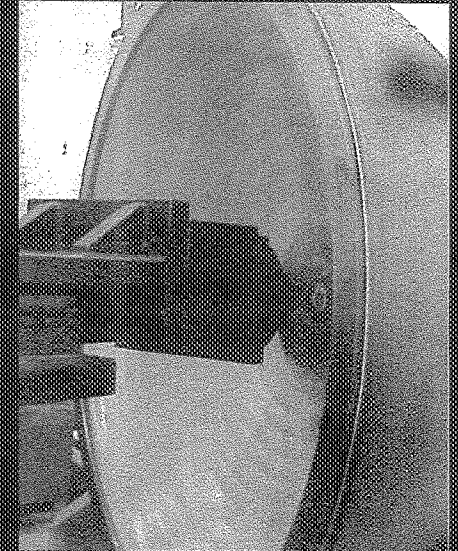




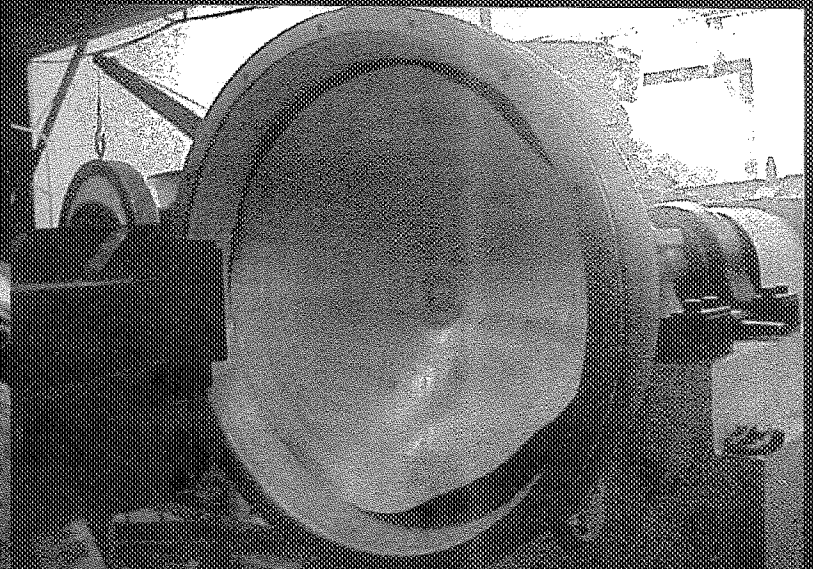


# 2024 Dome Results

- Material was formed ~ 10-11" inboard prior to cracking
  - Noticeable stress risers on the surface where the crack started
    - » Appears due to hand sanding with 180 grit
  - Material thinned down to ~0.070" near crack initiation
  - Cracking appears to be a brittle failure from being cold worked



Friction Stir Weld



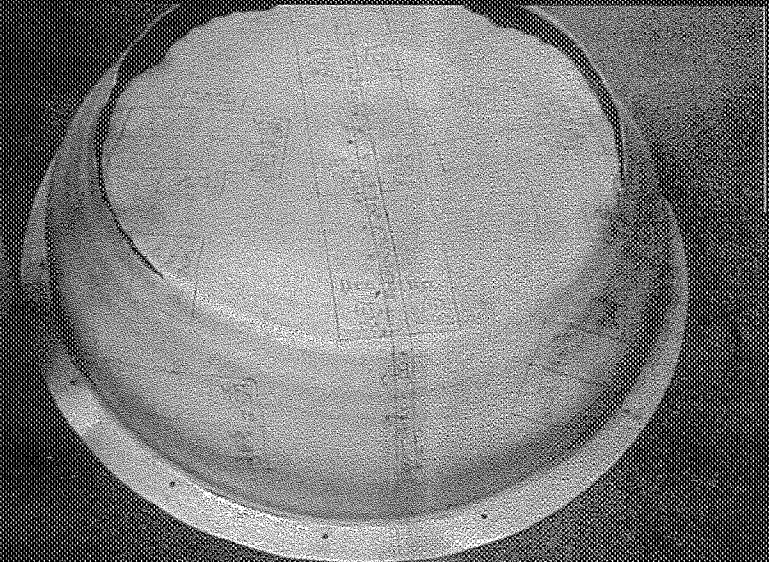
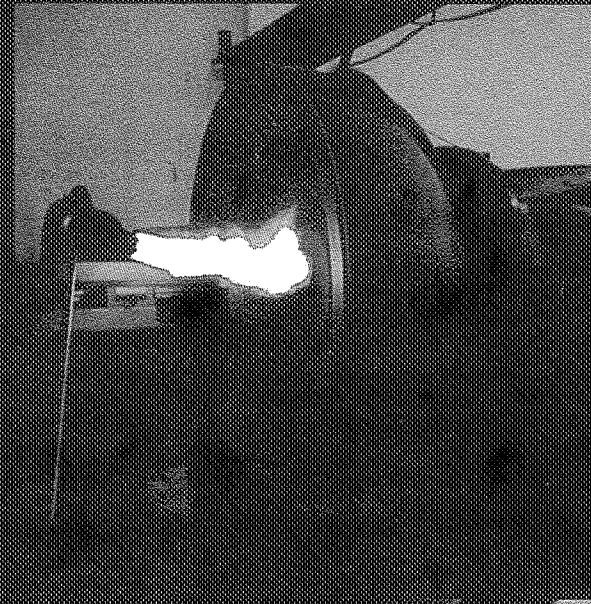
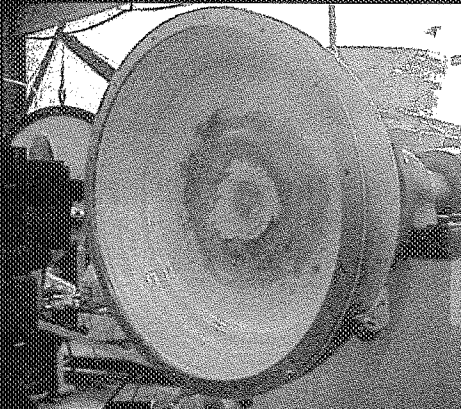




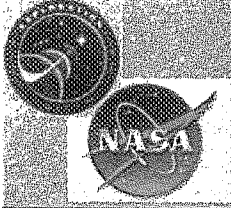
# 2219 Dome Results



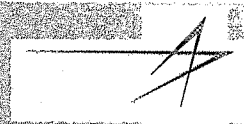
- Heat applied
  - Monitored via IR gun
- Material formed ~10-11" inboard prior to cracking
  - Forming operation was manually controlled
  - Material thinned to ~0.029" near crack initiation
  - Rest of material was ~0.070" thick







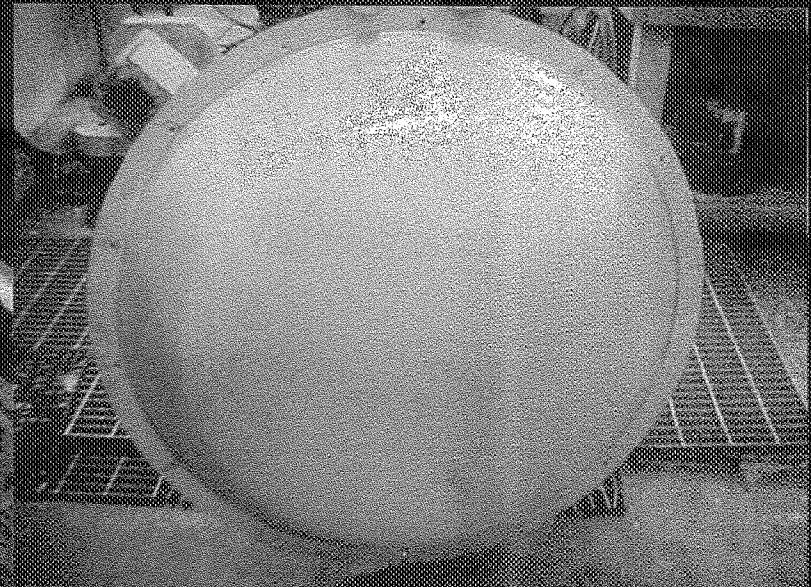
# FSW 7075 Blank Spinning



- Heat applied
  - Monitored via IR gun



- 7075 Dome Blank:
  - Material was formed ~10-11" inboard
  - Small tear formed in FSW joint





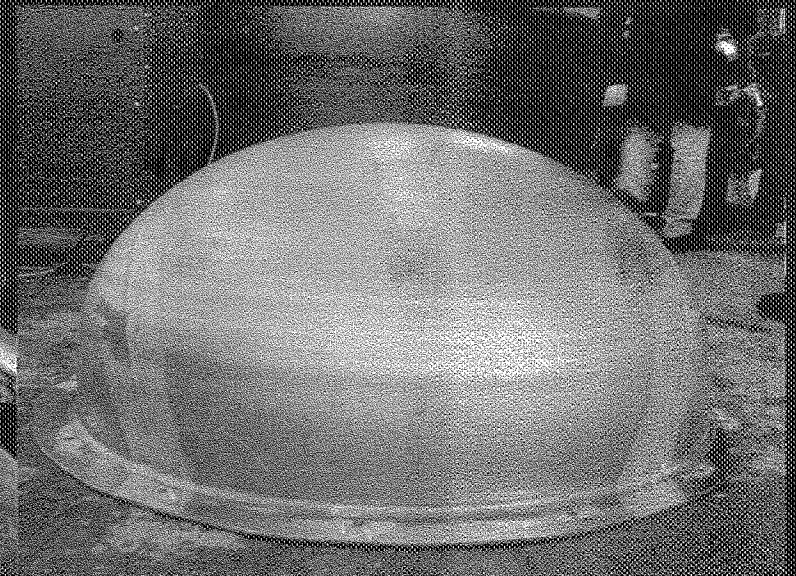
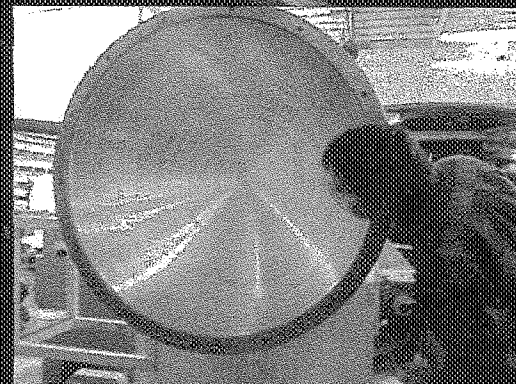
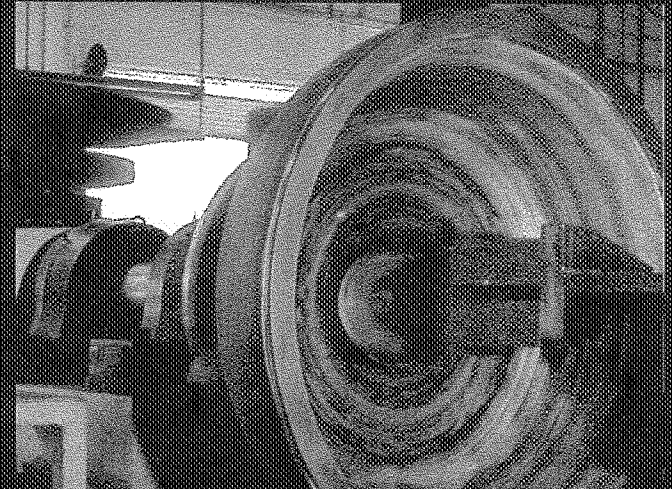
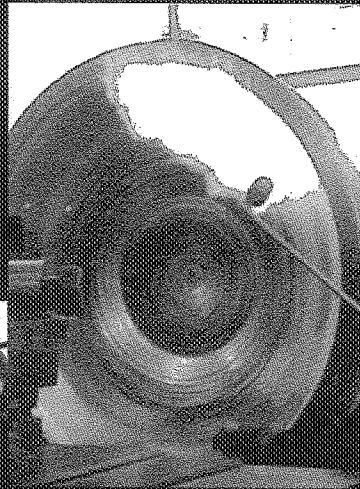


# Approach – Round Two (Female)



Used 2024 only

Heat applied



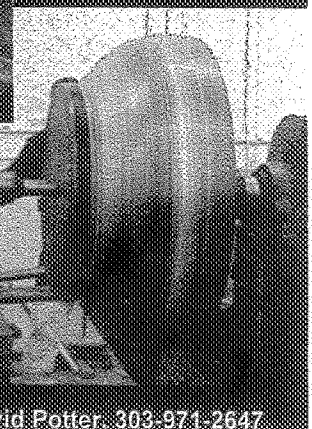
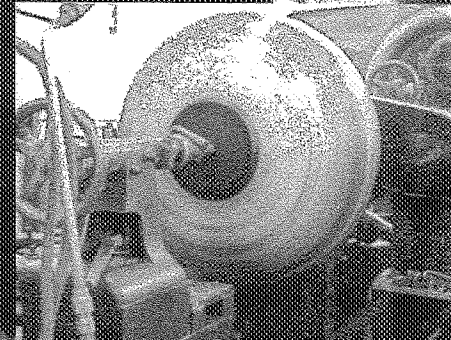
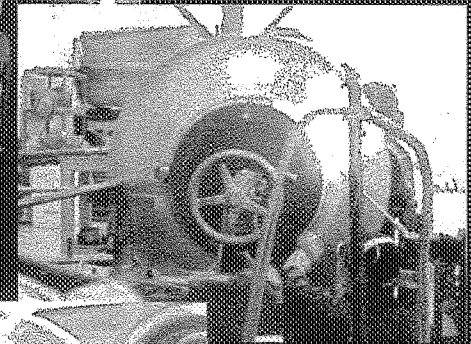
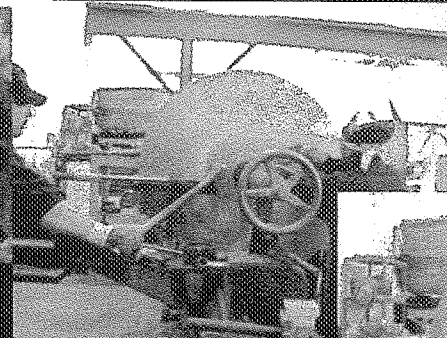
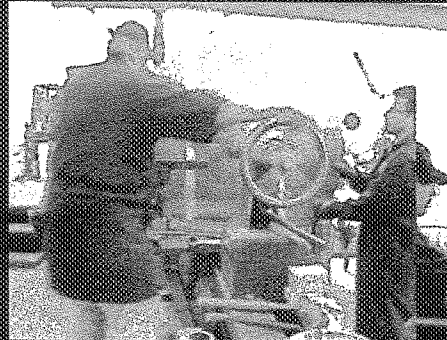
Fully formed dome almost accomplished





# Approach – Round Two (Male)

- Used 2024
- Heat Applied



Full dome accomplished



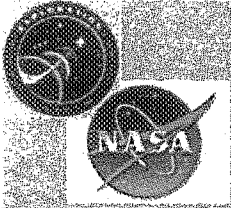


# Summary of Results



- Use of female dome
  - » More stretch accomplished
  - » Complicated by use of epoxy die with metal
  - » Higher risk method
- Use of male dome
  - » Less stretch accomplished



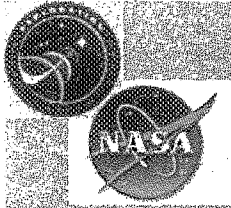


# Recommendations



- Find a better way to put fasteners into epoxy die
- Use dome blanks that are one temper
  - » Anneal welds and parent metal prior to spinning





# Acknowledgements

- **Hi –Temp – David Lind, provided spin forming**
- **NASA**
  - Contract officer Louis Lollar
  - Technical counterparts Carolyn Russell
  - Program Managers: Chris Moore and Judith Watson
- **Lockheed Martin**
  - Bob Anderson
  - Duy Pham





**Thank You!**